

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Prayer Before Worship:

Loving God, when we fall into the traps of groundless fears, you deliver us. When an epidemic of worry threatens to overcome us, you protect us. When harmful words are flung at us, you answer our cries for help. Gracious God, we worship you.

When our lives crumble, you urge us to buy hope's fields.

When we are tempted by wealth, you point us to those who have nothing but share all. When we are eager to grasp senseless lies, you wrap our hands around God's promises. Servant of the poor, we follow you.

When the world silences our hope, you give us the words to make the good confession of faith. When we have lost our way and can no longer endure the emptiness of our lives, you satisfy us from the abundance of God's grace and joy. Sheltering Spirit, we seek your peace.

Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

Thoughts for the Day:

- ❖ I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. *Genesis 12:2*
- ❖ "Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing." Camille Pissarro
- * "The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but the thankful heart will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings." Henry Ward Beecher
- * "You will be blessed the moment you realize you already are." Bryant McGill

Call to Worship:

Leader: As we gather, we acknowledge that we have indeed been blessed. **People: It is true that God's good gifts surround us in abundance.**

Leader: These gifts flow into our lives each day.

People: Our task is to let them flow through us to others.

Leader: As we open ourselves to God's Word and Spirit, this readily happens.

People: Let it happen this hour, as we come before God with hearts and

minds ready to receive and to give.

Song: Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us, verses 1, 2 & 3

(music at end of bulletin)

The Confession:

Leader: In God's presence, our lives are exposed, our words are shown for their hollowness, our need is revealed. Let us confess who we are, as we ask God to embrace us with grace and hope.

We need to confess, God of Abraham and Lazarus, how often we are All: not content with the simple gifts and lives you offer. Tempted by wealth, we can become insensitive to those who have nothing. Encouraged by the world to accumulate more, we may miss the chance

to gather your goodness and godliness. Chasing after everything that has no value, we may not have the energy to pursue the faith, the love, the gentleness you have for us.

Forgive us, God of Reversals. Help us to remember how you have redeemed us, and in remembering, may we make that good confession that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, now and forever.

(silence is observed)

Blessing/Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: This is the good news: God will hear your prayers, God will answer with hope

and peace, and God will deliver you from your sins.

People: God has covered us with grace: under God's hope

we will find shelter. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Confession Response: Because I Have Been Given Much (music at end of bulletin)

The Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹⁻²¹ "There once was a rich man, expensively dressed in the latest fashions, wasting his days in conspicuous consumption. A poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, had been dumped on his doorstep. All he lived for was to get a meal from scraps off the rich man's table. His best friends were the dogs who came and licked his sores.

²²⁻²⁴ "Then he died, this poor man, and was taken up by the angels to the lap of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell and in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham in the distance and Lazarus in his lap. He called out, 'Father Abraham, mercy! Have mercy! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool my tongue. I'm in agony in this fire.'

²⁵⁻²⁶ "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime you got the good things and Lazarus the bad things. It's not like that here. Here he's consoled and you're tormented. Besides, in all these matters there is a huge chasm set between us so that no one can go from us to you even if he wanted to, nor can anyone cross over from you to us.'

²⁷⁻²⁸ "The rich man said, 'Then let me ask you, Father: Send him to the house of my father where I have five brothers, so he can tell them the score and warn them so they won't end up here in this place of torment.'

²⁹ "Abraham answered, 'They have Moses and the Prophets to tell them the score. Let them listen to them.'

30 "'I know, Father Abraham,' he said, 'but they're not listening. If someone came back to them from the dead, they would change their ways.'

³¹ "Abraham replied, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they're not going to be convinced by someone who rises from the dead."

Message: "Do You See What God Sees?" Pastor Cristy Schoob

Message Response: Water and Dirt, verses 1,2, & 4 (music at end of bulletin)

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out:

Leader: Count your blessings and then share those blessings. So will you discover God's affirmation of life in all its fullness. Let the flow not only be *to* you but *through* you.

All: Amen!

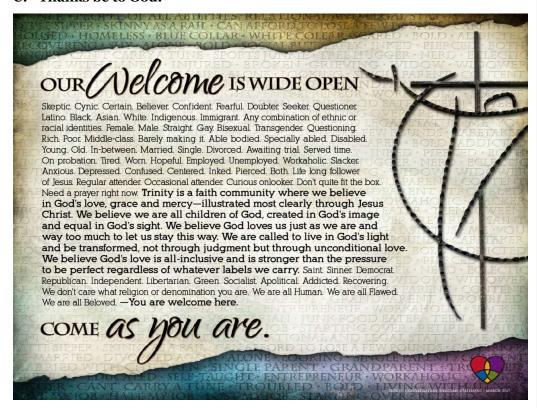
Sending Song: God of Grace and God of Glory. verses 1, 3 & 4 (music at end of bulletin)

Commented [H1]:

The Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



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